

THE ADDRESS
OF A
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FARMER
TO HIS
FELLOW-SUBJECTS, LABOURERS, TRADESMEN, MANUFACTURERS,
AND COUNTRYMEN IN GENERAL.

AS I pass more of my time in reading, and endeavouring to acquire knowledge, than most People in my humble station choose to spare from their business, I have lately thought a great deal about the nature of those Murmurs, Complaints, and Dissatisfactions, that at present prevail among discontented People, and on due consideration, and from my own experience and situation, I find that such Complaints and Uneasiness are founded on bad Principles, destructive of our own real happiness. What I am now going to say, is, next to your duty to GOD, and the care of your own Salvation, of the greatest concern to yourselves, your Wives and your Children; your Bread, Cloathing, and every necessary of Life, depend upon it. Let me therefore intreat you as Men, and as Christians, as Parents, and as lovers of your Country, that you will read what I now write with attention, or get it read to you by others:

In the first place, if there was no Government nor Law, the weakest part of us would absolutely be starved, as the strongest and most powerful would take away from us every thing necessary to the support of our Families, and we should perish for want; in the next place, if we were all upon an Equality, there would be no Farming, nor any Manufacturing; there would be an end to all Improvements in every branch of Business; there would be no Person to employ us, or pay us any thing, and therefore we should be in a much worse Condition than we are now in, indeed we should be truly miserable. Therefore as we value the well being of ourselves and Families, do not let us listen to such unprincipled disorderly Men, but let us consider them as our greatest Enemies, for as they are Enemies to our peaceable and happy Government, and wish to reduce every thing to Ruin and Confusion, we must of course, if their diabolical Schemes were to take place, suffer the greatest Calamities: But let us consider who it is that would persuade us to such vile Measures, and we shall find, they are only such Idle Creatures who want to live upon PLUNDER; Wretches that would rejoice to see every House in Flames, that they might rob the inside of it. Consider, Brethren, that we live secure under our present Government, and are certain of Maintenance and Support; our Employers are getting a Livelihood, and we are getting our Living: and supposing the dreadful Confusion, those incendiary Wretches wish, was to take place for a time, why all Carpenters, every maker of every sort of Goods, many Livery Servants, &c. &c. &c. would be out of employment, and have nothing to do, and what would be the consequence, why they would be forced to commit all kinds of Robbery and Violence, for there are enough already of us to plough the Land, without their help. At present our Sons and Daughters all get employment in Services, and Trades, which they could not do, if it was not for others that could employ them. For my own part, after well considering and weighing the happiness we now enjoy, I am perfectly satisfied that it is impossible to change for the better, and it would be the extreme of Madness and Folly to risque our present Comforts, for the certain Misery and Confusion that would follow our joining those, who wish to overturn all Order, Peace, and good Government. There are a few things that perhaps might be mended, and I dare say will in due time be done, without the necessity of any disputes or disturbance: our present Rulers are using every means in their power, by the most prudent management, to lessen the Taxes as much as possible; last year they took off some, and this year it is said they will take off several more; and I heard my Landlord say, who is of no party, that, notwithstanding the Taxes that were taken off last year, he knew it to be a fact, that Mr. Pitt had that moment a Million and a Half of overplus. The expence of maintaining the Army and Navy must be supported, otherwise we should be destroyed by Foreigners, and the interest of the Money must be paid which we were obliged to borrow, for those Wars brought upon us by the Treachery of the French, those Disturbers of Mankind, who when they were Slaves disturbed all their Neighbours, and now they boast they are free, (if the dreadful confusion they are now in can be called Freedom) they are overrunning and robbing the whole World: they have for many hundred years been endeavouring to conquer us. They have of late attempted

to cozen and cajole us, and now they begin to threaten us: But the spirit of this Nation will soon be up; and then at the first blow we shall demolish their Navy, and take all their Colonies, and then let them settle their Government their own way----I am sure my Friends it is our Interest to say with one accord down with the French and the Levellers.

As to the report that is spread about, that the King has saved a large sum of Money, it is only done by his Majesty's Enemies, a set of wicked, malicious, designing Men, who wish to injure him in the opinion of his Loving Subjects, and to prejudice their minds against him; and you may depend upon it, it is all a hum; I am sure of it, as it has been explained to my satisfaction: For out of the Income that is said to be allowed him, the greatest part of it goes to the Charges of the State, in payment of the Judges and Courts of Law, and a great many other things: so that when all payments are made out of his Income, he has not more at last than many private Gentlemen, and it is surely but reasonable, that the King should have as much at least, as any one of his Subjects. I am a Man without any Education as well as many amongst us, but yet I can see and judge what is just and reasonable, and I wish to convince many People, as well as our Brotherhood, of the folly of listening to such infamous Disturbers of the Public Peace. I only wish you to consider, that supposing it was possible to level all distinction, which is ridiculous and impracticable, what would become of all Taylors, Shoemakers, Hair-Dressers, Carpenters, Bricklayers, Smiths, Cabinet-Makers, Founders, Braziers, and all kinds of Trade that are now supported by the wealth of Individuals? Why they must all starve, they could not possibly have any employment. There are another class of Men, I mean Soldiers, what would become of these Brave Men, who have always been ready to defend their King and Country in times of Danger, there would be no Person to employ them; nor could they get any employment, for there would be nothing for them to do; And therefore as all of us, in our several occupations, live more comfortably now, than we can live in any other situation; let us be contented, and remain as we are, nor listen to those, who would persuade us to join them in attempting an Exchange, by which we should become miserable. I know there is not upon Earth a single Country, where the sober, honest Labourer and Mechanic can live half so well, and be so well rewarded for his Industry and Ingenuity, as he is, and I hope ever will be, in Old England, nor where the Poor in general are better provided for; these are such desirable Blessings, that every honest Man will strive to preserve, and if all Men were desirous of making their Country happy, his Majesty would not have a single disaffected Person in his whole Dominions.

What I have said, my Bretheren, arises from the security I myself enjoy, as well as you, under our present happy Government, and I wish the same happiness may be extended to the Children yet unborn.

I am,

My dear Countrymen;

Your affectionate Fellow Labourer,

and Citizen;

A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FARMER.

December 5, 1792.